

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method to utilize unscheduled bandwidth in a calendar-based VC scheduling scheme by caching a plurality of virtual connections for processing. A plurality of virtual connection addresses are stored in a cache memory. A virtual connection corresponding to one of these addresses is processed if one of the

- 5 time periods for transmitting on the trunk is liable to be wasted because no cell is
available through the normal calendaring algorithm. A VC cache is added to the
VC scheduler in “parallel” with the calendar-based scheduler. When the
calendar-based scheduler has a time period in which no VC is scheduled for
transmission on the trunk, a VC address is obtained from the cache and that VC
10 is processed. What makes this scheme work is the observation that the VCs that
have been active will have more cells to transmit.